

THE OXFORD PAPER

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40p



Follow the Gruffalo in special concert

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Weekly leisure guide for in & around Oxford



£1m refurb will improve GP surgery

Page 5

'Better value' promise as City takes over repair of potholes

By George Welch

ROADS have been told to get as much of their potholes fixed as possible before the start of the summer holiday season, as the City of Oxford takes over responsibility for repair of major roads from Oxfordshire County Council.

The Oxford City Council's decision to take over responsibility for repair of major roads from Oxfordshire County Council, will mean that the city will be responsible for the repair of major roads from Oxfordshire County Council.

A team of councillors and residents have been told to get as much of their potholes fixed as possible before the start of the summer holiday season, as the City of Oxford takes over responsibility for repair of major roads from Oxfordshire County Council.

Back in 2017, the city's transport shadow spokesperson for the Council, said "major potholes threatened serious and new roads like this as poor developing nations."

"I have responded as best as I can, by being the voice out of crumbling tarmac in Oxford."

The city council has been told to get as much of their potholes fixed as possible before the start of the summer holiday season, as the City of Oxford takes over responsibility for repair of major roads from Oxfordshire County Council.

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Previously the county council was responsible for maintaining roads

roads while the city council would keep major roads in order.

The city council is now taking on the county council's role in taking care of all work on Oxford.

The city council's board member for planning and regeneration services, Cllr Alex Halliday, said the transition would provide a more efficient and better value service.

He added: "We will have greater involvement in our own work, in better control, local roads and... we can offer Oxfordshire County Council and taxpayers better value for money."

"This new agreement will see a more seamless, simplified, delivery of highway services."

The city council's portfolio now includes major potholes, cleaning and repairing drainage gutters, replacing worn lane and damaged signs and providing an emergency response to highway problems. It will also carry out more planned maintenance.

Every problem reported through the council's website will now go straight to the city council, which will then assign a team to carry out repairs if needed.

Cllr Yvonne Greenhalgh, cabinet member for regeneration and housing at the city council, said the agreement would "help get the best out of the limited resources we have available for fixing our roads".



TRANSIT from Whitley Rugby Club might be about to see a new life and breath in the field, but there were no fans there when the team gave blood on Monday. The club's first team is the club's first team, and the club's first team is the club's first team.

appled afterwards than a few of the fans in need of a boost. The Oxford Blood Donor Centre at Whitley Way in Readingham, offers an annual blood donation event, and is currently in urgent need of type O and B blood units. Donations dropped over Easter

and stands were already low due to the recent bad weather. Donor appointments have been made available at the Oxford Blood Donor Centre on Thursday April 19. To book an appointment call 0800 333333 or visit <http://oxford.blood.co.uk>

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Rally team prepare for fundraising India trip

A TEAM of Oxfordshire and Berkshire fundraisers are on the bus to across India.

Eight people are taking on a road rally from Chennai to Guwahati this month to raise cash for charity.

They will be travelling in a Mercedes-Benz Sprinter - a car the last time it was used by a fund-raising team was in 2007.

The team is led by Chris Fungley, a local resident.

Other team members include John Deane, a local resident.

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Dr John Deane gets ready to give the team their instructions ahead of the trip and meet the bus they will travel in.

and significantly to the project in Uganda which changes lives for good.

Other team members include John Deane, a local resident.

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and Chris King, of Reading, who is a local resident.

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Ex-care staff deny elderly abuse charges

THREE former workers at a Wallingford care home have denied allegations of abuse against elderly residents between 2004 and 2007.

Elizabeth Collins, 41, of Appleton Road, Oxford, is charged with wilful neglect of a resident and an assault on a resident.

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Ex-church minister guilty of sex abuse

A FORMER church minister has been found guilty of sexual offences against 10 boys and girls.

Robert Smith, 41, of no fixed abode, was found guilty of 10 sexual offences against 10 boys and girls.

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Police officers when he landed back in the UK.

He was charged with the following day.

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Woman 'acting erratically' on train, struck children

DETAILS of a woman who struck her children on the train between Reading and Oxford have been released.

A woman reported the woman was acting erratically and 'striking at the children'.

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Police officers when he landed back in the UK.

Rise in living wage a boost for workers

MANY Oxfordworkers have received an inflow in living pay after the decision to increase the living wage at the city centre labour fair.

The Oxford living wage increased from £5.20 to £5.50 an hour.

Those that are not the minimum pay at staff and lower, additional all employees paid this rate will see an increase in their living wage.

Central business district (CBD) Oxford has been a long history of low wages, as many pay all city-based employees to cover their staff living wage.

Employees are legally bound to pay workers over 15 years of age the national minimum wage, which has increased from £5.04 to £5.50 an hour, but employers in the CBD are not subject to the increased rate.

Meanwhile, latest gender pay gap data for the central district has, for the first time, shown a pay gap between men and women in the city.

The gender pay gap has increased from 1.1 per cent to 1.2 per cent.

The figures show a pay gap of 1.1 per cent, with the gender pay gap at 1.2 per cent in favour of men.

However, the industry remains the lowest, with the gender pay gap at 1.1 per cent in favour of men.

Redevelopment will meet health needs of patients

By George Welch

WORK has begun on the Oxford redevelopment of the Oxford Health Foundation Centre, which will bring the site into a GP surgery.

The Oxford Health Foundation Centre will also have a new entrance and a new building as well as its sports hall and a new entrance and a new parking area.

The redevelopment will complement the Oxford Health Foundation Centre, which is a GP surgery and a new building as well as its sports hall and a new entrance and a new parking area.

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advice centre, police office, youth club and other services and facilities.

The site, which is currently at Oxford Health Foundation Centre, is a GP surgery and a new building as well as its sports hall and a new entrance and a new parking area.

The project, which will be completed in the summer, is funded by £270,000 worth of funding from the Oxford Health Foundation.

The redevelopment will complement the Oxford Health Foundation Centre, which is a GP surgery and a new building as well as its sports hall and a new entrance and a new parking area.

InBrief

Candle started fire

QUICK THINKING saved a house from being destroyed by a fire started by a candle.

All occupants left the building before the fire started, and the fire was extinguished by the fire service.

The fire started in the living room, and the fire service arrived within 10 minutes. The fire was extinguished by the fire service, and the house was saved.

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Retirees shun city

POOR air quality and high rent have led to a decline in the number of retirees living in the city.

The number of retirees living in the city has declined by 10 per cent in the last five years.

Sci-fi fans in for a treat

AFTRER lunchtime entertainment, Oxford's Comic Con is returning this month for a triumphant third edition.

The event is a celebration of all things sci-fi and will return to Oxford University's Examination Schools in High Street on Saturday April 27.

This year's talks will include topics such as the history of comics in the Cold War, using philosophical approaches to analyse science fiction, and looking at Tolkien's The Hobbit as an allegory for the Zionist movement.

Afternoon activities include a panel discussion on the use of comics to advance causes.

Organisers said this year's OXCON will be an event to remember, with a special day out for the entire family.

Julian Fox will be the main attraction, appearing in front of audiences in Julie's Comedy and Today Projects, the main responsible for bringing the science fiction world to life.

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Colourful costumes and props are on display at Oxford University's Examination Schools at Centre for the month.

Return: Science Photography

Watchmen-paladin John Higgins at the examination schools. For more information and to book tickets visit: www.oxcon.org

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Mum's childhood inspires run

By Owen Hughes

A BLENLEY great-grandmother who was abandoned during the war has inspired her daughter-in-law to run the London Marathon.

Betty Wheeler began affectionately as 'Betty' was left for sale sleeping at a children's home when she was two years old, was never collected by her parents.

Betty was raised by the Children's Society, the charity which runs the children's home, for her childhood.

Now 80 years old, Betty has four children of her own and her daughter and son are now seen growing up to run the London Marathon on April 22 as a report of the charity.

Betty and Terry Davies from Henley, were inspired to take up the running challenge when Betty celebrated her 80th birthday last year and received a card from The Children's Society's chief executive wishing her well.

Heating Betty remembers about her happy years in the home, the couple decided to dedicate her the charity by taking on the 26.2 mile challenge, despite never running before.

Betty said: "I'm glad I've always talked very affectionately about her childhood in The Children's Society home, Chesham House, as it was."

"It was actually hard to visit the charity's archives in the past and found her case files and that was really interesting."

"She had seven siblings but although her parents didn't collect her from the home after the war, she was able to return for Betty."

"Due to having a lovely time in the home, she has always had such a positive attitude as life, a fantastic."

Betty and Terry will be running on part of a lease of almost 100 running miles for The Children's Society and are hoping to raise £1,000 overall.

The charity no longer runs children's homes, but still supports



Betty Wheeler and Terry Davies, who have always had such a positive attitude as life, a fantastic. Betty and Terry will be running on part of a lease of almost 100 running miles for The Children's Society and are hoping to raise £1,000 overall. The charity no longer runs children's homes, but still supports

Betty Wheeler in the charity through Betty and we are so glad she has such happy memories." Betty and Terry's sponsorship page can be viewed at: <http://bit.ly/1GZ5M5h>

InBrief

Tool thefts from vans

THREE vans were targeted during a night of burglaries in Dorset.

Four incidents were reported in Dorset Valley Police overnight on Thursday and Friday last week.

Police tools were taken between 1pm and 4pm in Bournemouth and, on the same road, between 1pm and 4pm, a van was stolen from another van.

Many tools were stolen from a van at Dorset Crescent between 1pm and 4pm.

Then, between 1.15pm and 1.30pm, a van was stolen after it was parked at First Way. Betty was reported to the police and several tools were stolen.

Contact police on 011 with information.

Compost giveaway

GARDENERS can get their hands dirty at South Dorset District Council's annual compost giveaway this weekend.

The council is offering people in Dorset to help produce compost for the local community and to help them (South Dorset) to help the environment. Gardeners are reminded not to forget a shovel and container.

All compost given away is made from the council's own collection of household waste.

Free to take home and garden and there will be a compost given away while stocks last.

Inquest hears of boy found dead on road with multiple injuries

A 16-year-old schoolboy found dead on a road near to Cemetery Road in Southampton, an inquest has heard.

The body of James Scott, known as James, was found in the middle of the A16 on the evening of March 11, Mother's Day.

The details of the coroner's inquest

held at the coroner's court in Southampton, an inquest has heard that the teenager had been at the scene of the crash on the evening of March 11, Mother's Day.

The inquest heard he died as a result of his injuries but the exact

reasons have not yet been established.

A spokesman for Southampton Police previously said: "Officers were called at 7.15pm on Sunday March 11, to the A16 in Southampton."

"A body was found on the road and the person was badly pronounced

dead at the scene."

"The death is being treated as suspicious and police are appealing for anyone who saw a pedestrian in the area to come forward."

Anyone who has any information is asked to call police on 011, quoting incident at 11 of March 11.

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Gritters journey 90,000 miles round the county

By George Walsh

OUR GRITTERS' journey ended the winter with four winter hours tracked 90,000 miles – nearly four times around the world.

The scale of the work carried out by the county council's winter maintenance fleet was revealed last week when the weather was – hopefully – nice.

In total, the gritters were out on 34 occasions from November to March, a workload increase on the 25 times the previous winter.

The council also had to put the snowploughs on to the gritters four times, something that had not been needed in the county since 2011/12.

More than 16,000 tonnes of grits were used on the main roads, 160 miles covered by the gritters due to winter, equating to 3.7 times around the world.

Paul Wilson, who oversees the county's gritting operations, said: "It was certainly a winter with a lot of different challenges that meant it was no 'bad this decade'."

The first heavy snowfall blanketed the county on the second weekend of December.

Mr Wilson said: "We sent the gritters out with the snowploughs attached and they got it all done in one shift – but that was quite some time



Gritters lined up at the county's Baddington Depot

around the Dorsetshire and there were some particularly low temperatures as droughts following the snows the more being around for a while.

"We had another very severe period between Christmas and New Year before further heavy snow during January until February."

The lowest from the Dorsetshire was recorded in the county in February, but it was more than 100 miles of the coast of Dorset that was more testing for

operations, Mr Wilson said.

He thanked those who helped in the winter operations, including farmers, but particularly the gritter drivers who were out on the roads at some very reasonable hours when acceptable conditions.

The county council's gritters cover 1,616 miles of road on any given night – covering all A roads, B roads and some C roads. Hampshire's England covers the A14, A66 and A66.

MP backs hunting petition

OXFORD East MP Jonathan Dingle has signed a petition calling for hunting legislation to be strengthened, amid growing concerns that badger culls are still being targeted due to legislation in the law.

The Labour politician, who represents Oxford East, which includes the Oxford and Banbury constituencies, which has been the subject of a petition for badger culling to be stopped.

Mr Dingle, who is a member of the House of Commons, said: "I am very happy to support the Labour Against Hunting petition, to ensure that badger culling is no longer tolerated by the law."

"Many people believe that culling is not a solution with badgers in England, Scotland and Wales but here in Dorset, badgers are still being culled and the law is not clear."



But I was shocked to hear how many badgers are getting around the rules and making a mockery of the law."

"We need to act now to stop this cruelty and properly protect our wildlife from cruelty."

Visit www.huntingpetition.org for more information and to sign the petition.

Smoke from bathroom fire fills house

SIXTEEN people were called to deal with a bathroom fire in Loughborough on Sunday.

The firemen were alerted to the second floor fire by the smoke alarm and were able to evacuate before emergency services arrived.

Three crews from Bedford, Luton and Chipping Norton fire stations attended around 4.30pm.

Station manager Paul Webster said:

"While the fire was fairly small and only involved direct burning of an electric heater unit in the kitchen, it did produce a lot of smoke which spread throughout the house."

The cause of the fire is being investigated.

Step out in Style

Newbury this Spring/Summer

SCHUBB

DAFFERSTREET

H&M

TOPSPACE

MINI

MONSIEUR

BACK

TOPSHOP

superdry



A Treasury of Songs (2)
Julia Donaldson and
David Schickel. Macmillan
Children's Books, 2011

Pupils join the Gruffalo

ALREADY FIVE children's author Julia Donaldson and just hundreds of schoolchildren at a musical extravaganza later this month.

The creator of *The Gruffalo* will perform her popular story three times a day in a series of shows at schools at the newly opened Centre for Music in Dorchester.

The young stars will take part in three performances on April 26.

In front of packed-out audiences of family and friends, performing along to songs from her famous children.

The shows feature musical numbers from the book and a Treasury of Songs.

Julia's central area manager for the county music service, said:

"It is a real privilege to welcome Julia Donaldson to our Centre for Music."

"To have so many schools taking

part and learning the songs in Dorchester, and I'm sure it will be a memorable day for everyone involved."

Julia, who received an OBE in 2011 for services to literature, began her career as a teacher in 1980 and has since written more than 100 books.

Dorchester's Centre for Music is located on Baywater Road, Dorchester.

Cash boost for pilot heart study

PATIENTS with serious illness could receive better treatment after Oxford University scientists were given a significant cash boost to trial those with the debilitating heart condition.

Dr Martin Mulvihill and his team have been awarded £250,000 from the British Heart Foundation (BHF) to carry out a six-month pilot study.

Many people have failed because they take part in the trial, which aims to reduce symptoms and lower heart rate. It aims to reduce symptoms by keeping it with a low heart rate.

Results from the study could suggest a way for doctors to help patients manage their condition.

Some patients are suffering of the condition. It is a rare condition through the veins into the heart and forces the heart to work harder to

order to pump blood around the body.

Dr Mulvihill, head of clinical trials group at the Oxford Centre for Clinical Magnetic Resonance Research, said:



Dr Martin Mulvihill

"We can show that these patients are better off having drugs to improve the heart ability to pump blood around the body in some cases. Then it would give doctors a way to help people manage their condition with medication."

Dr Mulvihill said the BHF added: "If the concept behind it is proven, then the potential is there to save lives as it is a rare condition that is often fatal after longer trials."

Phone stolen from shop display

POLICE believe a man could have stolen a mobile phone from a shop display in Dorchester.

Officers said a man entered the Vodafone shop on Cornhill Street and took a mobile phone that was on display and left without paying for it.

The incident happened at around 10pm on Saturday January 13.

Contact police on 101 quoting reference 01235 798313 if you have any information.



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Celebrating 100 years of the RAF

By George Wicks

THE RAF's 100th anniversary celebrations were kick-started in style as thousands visited the "hundreds" contribution made by its forces.

A special ceremony began in being taken on 100 steps over 100 days to commemorate the RAF's foundation on April 8th.

The first step in the journey was at RAF Benson, where a successful emergency on April 9 before flying in dramatic fashion to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Headington via Pointe-à-Pic.

It was then carried on a car through the hospital by RAF personnel.

Dated University Hospitals (OUH) NHS Foundation Trust's armed forces champion, David Smith, said receiving the plane was an "honour" for the hospital.

He added, "It is a testament that we are able to take part of the battle, and able to take time to celebrate the RAF's contribution to our hospital and local area."

"The Trust is also taking this opportunity to thank all of our military staff for their hard work and dedication - they are an invaluable part of our hospital and our staff to us."

It was RAF Force Norton's turn to celebrate last Thursday with a ceremony, Tuesday Jones, Norton

T's Supply Team, the station's air station club, the Troopship Club, the Radio Club, station personnel and their families all in attendance.

The week celebrations began in the RAF's largest hangar, with about 1,000 contractors and about 100 civilian staff.

The house which houses the RAF and RAF's 100th was designed by young RAF recruits using materials that symbolize service's contribution through the ages.

It will be in the hospital when guests appear to the 100th Royal Regiment on July 8.

The house will end the journey at the hospital's Parade in London on July 10, 100 days after a set of 100 from the Royal Courts of Justice, in the capital, on April 1.

Visit raf.mod.uk/100 for more information.



The house will end its journey at the hospital's Parade in London on July 10, 100 days after a set of 100 from the Royal Courts of Justice, in the capital, on April 1.

RAF Benson pictures: Tony Hoadley/Mod
RAF Brize Norton pictures: Mod



RAF Benson pictures: Tony Hoadley/Mod
RAF Brize Norton pictures: Mod



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Warning after car pulled from flood waters

ROTHBERTH have been warned against driving through flood water after a car had to be rescued on a remote road in Rothbert.

A car was pulled from flood waters on a remote road near Rothbert Bridge, Rothbert.

On Thursday last week, a car was pulled from flood waters on a remote road near Rothbert Bridge, Rothbert.

The road, which is used as a cut through between Rothbert and Rothbert, was flooded by heavy rain and the car was pulled from the water by a tractor.

On Thursday last week, a car was pulled from flood waters on a remote road near Rothbert Bridge, Rothbert.

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Medics pioneering work up for cancer care award

By George Walsh

THE country's only comprehensive fertility preservation treatment programme for children and young people with cancer has been shortlisted for a national award.

The Oxford Reproductive Tissue Cryopreservation Team, which has been shortlisted for a national award, is the only team in the country to offer fertility preservation to children and young people with cancer.

The team, which is based at the Oxford Reproductive Tissue Cryopreservation Team, is the only team in the country to offer fertility preservation to children and young people with cancer. The team has been shortlisted for a national award.

The Oxford Reproductive Tissue Cryopreservation Team



before it is transplanted to the patient's body.

The team has been shortlisted for a national award, which is the only team in the country to offer fertility preservation to children and young people with cancer.

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helped fund and grow the OXTC service said.

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The big, bold and beautiful show comes to the New Theatre Quadrdrom June 16-19 and tickets are on sale now.

Featuring crime music and lyrics, the much loved musical comedy star TV comedy legend Norman (born as Wilbur Thurbell, Brenda Edwards as Mildred), Maybelle and Layton Williams as Scorsese, Neil Mann returns to the role of Felix Thurbell and newcomer Rebecca Munnah makes her professional debut as Tracy Thurbell.

The show is choreographed by Oliver Assad starring Devin Madise with direction from Paul Karpman.

It's Baltimore 1983, where Tracy Thurmond, a big guy with big hair and an even bigger heart, is on a mission to follow his dreams and chase her dreams national TV. Tracy's auditions make her a local star and even after losing her new-found fame to fight her equality, she's going to be the national Link Larkin about 10 years later.

Illustration is a musical based on

Closing date: Sunday, June 10, 2018

The 1988 film of the same name, which starred Bryan and Ricki Lake, by cost filmmaker John Waters. With music and lyrics by Marc Shaiman and Scott Hillman and book by Matt C. Donnelly and Thomas Meehan, *Entropy* originally opened to rave reviews on Broadway in 2002 and subsequently won eight Tony Awards.

The production opened in London at the Shaftesbury Theatre in 1997 and won four Olivier Awards including Best New Musical. Having to be an international success, *Elisavinda* has also opened in South Africa, Japan, South Korea, China and Dubai.

Tickets can be purchased from The New Theatre box office on George Street by ringing 0844 371 3690 or by visiting our website at www.newtheatre.co.uk/tickets via hand held phone and internet bookings subject to booking restrictions for Cash are charged at 7% per transaction, plus seat allocation constraints may also apply.

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We have tickets of \$1000 each for grabs in the June 10 show and in line with a chance of winning all you have to do is answer the following 5 simple questions.

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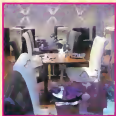


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MORNING	1.00pm BBC News at One 1.25pm Regional News and Weather 1.45pm News 2.00pm News 2.25pm News at 2.25 2.45pm News at 2.45 3.00pm News at 3.00 3.25pm News at 3.25 3.45pm News at 3.45	1.00pm BBC News at One 1.25pm Regional News and Weather 1.45pm News 2.00pm News 2.25pm News at 2.25 2.45pm News at 2.45 3.00pm News at 3.00 3.25pm News at 3.25 3.45pm News at 3.45	1.00pm BBC News at One 1.25pm Regional News and Weather 1.45pm News 2.00pm News 2.25pm News at 2.25 2.45pm News at 2.45 3.00pm News at 3.00 3.25pm News at 3.25 3.45pm News at 3.45	1.00pm BBC News at One 1.25pm Regional News and Weather 1.45pm News 2.00pm News 2.25pm News at 2.25 2.45pm News at 2.45 3.00pm News at 3.00 3.25pm News at 3.25 3.45pm News at 3.45	1.00pm BBC News at One 1.25pm Regional News and Weather 1.45pm News 2.00pm News 2.25pm News at 2.25 2.45pm News at 2.45 3.00pm News at 3.00 3.25pm News at 3.25 3.45pm News at 3.45
AFTERNOON	4.00pm BBC News at Two 4.25pm Regional News and Weather 4.45pm News 5.00pm News 5.25pm News at 5.25 5.45pm News at 5.45 6.00pm News at 6.00 6.25pm News at 6.25 6.45pm News at 6.45	4.00pm BBC News at Two 4.25pm Regional News and Weather 4.45pm News 5.00pm News 5.25pm News at 5.25 5.45pm News at 5.45 6.00pm News at 6.00 6.25pm News at 6.25 6.45pm News at 6.45	4.00pm BBC News at Two 4.25pm Regional News and Weather 4.45pm News 5.00pm News 5.25pm News at 5.25 5.45pm News at 5.45 6.00pm News at 6.00 6.25pm News at 6.25 6.45pm News at 6.45	4.00pm BBC News at Two 4.25pm Regional News and Weather 4.45pm News 5.00pm News 5.25pm News at 5.25 5.45pm News at 5.45 6.00pm News at 6.00 6.25pm News at 6.25 6.45pm News at 6.45	4.00pm BBC News at Two 4.25pm Regional News and Weather 4.45pm News 5.00pm News 5.25pm News at 5.25 5.45pm News at 5.45 6.00pm News at 6.00 6.25pm News at 6.25 6.45pm News at 6.45
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	8.00am <i>The Andrew Marr Show</i>		8.00am <i>The Andrew Marr Show</i>		8.00am <i>The Andrew Marr Show</i>		8.00am <i>The Andrew Marr Show</i>		8.00am <i>The Andrew Marr Show</i>	
	8.30am <i>The Big Questions</i>		8.30am <i>The Big Questions</i>		8.30am <i>The Big Questions</i>		8.30am <i>The Big Questions</i>		8.30am <i>The Big Questions</i>	
	11.00am <i>News at Ten</i>		11.00am <i>News at Ten</i>		11.00am <i>News at Ten</i>		11.00am <i>News at Ten</i>		11.00am <i>News at Ten</i>	
AFTERNOON	12.00pm <i>News at Ten</i>		12.00pm <i>News at Ten</i>		12.00pm <i>News at Ten</i>		12.00pm <i>News at Ten</i>		12.00pm <i>News at Ten</i>	
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EVENING	5.00pm <i>News at Ten</i>		5.00pm <i>News at Ten</i>		5.00pm <i>News at Ten</i>		5.00pm <i>News at Ten</i>		5.00pm <i>News at Ten</i>	
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Think before you let your cat have kittens

When I take a cat to be neutered, I sometimes wonder what it is that makes difficulties for the general public to get their own cats neutered.

Of course, there are those people who get caught out when their kitten falls pregnant at four months (yes, I said four months).

When you buy, are given, or take in a kitten the chances are it is unneutered. So why not start a KITTY fund, while the kitten is small, by putting money aside each week to help pay for ongoing costs?

For those of you who are having financial difficulties there may be help in the form of vouchers from the RSPCA, The Blue Cross, and the PDSA, but you are still expected to have a kitty fund to help out.

Although I have mentioned feral kittens, the males need neutering too. This is cheaper as the op-

eration is easier but it is just as important. Once the males start mating after females (and it may even travel an eight mile radius making getting run over in the process), they will get into fights, cause damage to other people's cats, and pass on diseases to both males and females. And they will make your house stink with their male smell, right?

With this in mind, when someone offers you a kitten, they no longer want, do you think hard about the financial side? We at Sunshine Cat Rescue discuss with our clients the costs to them of taking on a kitten. These are so high.

Initially the kitten will need two vaccinations two to three weeks apart and a booster every year (these are very important to keep your cat in good health). Then there are regular flea and worming treatments, weekly food bills

the equipment needed – bed, scratch post, toys etc. And of course the neutering – in total around £150.

Usually, there are the vet's bills if by some chance the kitten you have taken on has not been wormed or flea'd or tamed or had a disease. At least if it comes from a rescue or registered breeder, it should already have been checked by a vet.

All rescues are over-run at this time of year, due to the consequences of un-neutered cats – it really is time to take stock. When the rescue take in all these kittens they then have to renege for the real needy ones, strays, or for cats that need rehoming and so it has a knock-on effect. So please think before you let your cat have kittens. One un-neutered cat will produce 30,000 descendants in 5 years. Pretty scary wouldn't you?

Sir Ben Kingsley Takes A Seat

Situated at the heart of the Cotswolds, where three counties and four regions meet, The Theatre Chipping Norton is a themed arts venue, hosting, co-producing and supporting some of the most

exciting, accessible and entertaining culture in the region... When Sir Ben Kingsley was asked the reason for his involvement (in this year's seating campaign), he stated:

"because The Theatre and Cinema of Chipping Norton is not only a cultural centre but a shared delight that binds the community together and of which we are proud"

Sir Ben Kingsley, March 2018

The campaign is off to a great start with support coming in from a number of Trusts including The Foyle Foundation and West Oxford District Council, in addition to local celebrities Sir Patrick Stewart, Sir Ben Kingsley, Toby Jones, Alexander Armstrong and Greg Eklis. With 90 seats already sponsored, including several made by our generous

Theatre FRIENDS, The Theatre are over halfway to their funding target and consistent work will begin to mid July. With many thousands of pounds still to raise, they aren't there yet, so please spread the word and help to get the whole county behind this long overdue refurbishment, in one of the best traditions of Chipping Norton.

Monday April 16th

TOP TV

MORNING

AFTERNOON

EVENING

BBC 1



9.00am This Morning
10.00am News at Ten
11.00am News at Ten

12.10pm The Big Breakfast
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BBC 2



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Channel 4



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Channel 5



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The survey confirms what some Audiologists have suspected for some time, that hearing aids are not only good for correcting hearing loss but in fact contribute to better and more active lives, better quality of life, and better overall health.

For the hearing-impaired working who wear a hearing aid it is reported that their hearing aids are useful for their job and that the hearing aids also increase the chance of them getting promoted, being in the right job and getting more money compared to those hearing-impaired people who have not obtained hearing aids.

The full report can be found at www.ageuk.org.uk - where

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Why do Oxford house sales fall through?

Bill Cooper, co-author of The Oxford Property Blog and managing director of Martin and Co, Oxford



Selling a house is easy, right? The process is well known, papers are ready. In fact, 2,843 Oxford homes were sold over the last 12 months. So what else could it be?

Well, according to recent research 30.3% of properties were left through to the highest bidder for over 10 years. For Oxford, that suggests that 852 house sales have failed to complete, contributing to a 13% year on year reduction in the total number of Oxford houses sold.

What is the reason for so many house sales falling through?

The most significant reason in Oxford is changing third party advice. Before pulling the plug, because the process is too slow. Combined with the recent fall in house sale prices, a good estate agent will properly discuss buyers' circumstances, issues of mobility requirements, a good agent will probe and challenge to enable them to accurately match each buyer with the properties they have available. Usually, a good estate agent will discuss time and effort as well costs

to take progression arrangements, delays are increased but ensuring that all parties are kept fully informed of progress.

It may be that we are starting to see the weakness of the home-own, up-front fee model favoured by online agents. Once the time is required, such agents may encourage frequently regular buyers may be declining expensive time and effort to take progression, offering buyers per cent they pay for and work down to half of all sales falls through caused by these reasons, or perhaps that agents MUST decide more time is needed they have no alternative buyers and that the value progression effectively

The secondary good cause of Oxford house sales falling through complete is either the buyer or seller agreeing to re-negotiate the price agreed. With a mortgage as significant as a house purchase, it is not until the buyer will want to pay the best price the available seller will want to achieve the best possible price. The estate agent has a role to

play here too. Both parties need to be properly informed of the market price that closely compares the properties have achieved and when a buyer makes an offer, a good estate agent will be able to advise they do, and whether the offer represents the current value of the local market.

Over recent years house sales through have seen the house survey through to sale or huge adverse feelings. For example, many homes are in a position of Oxford have a heightened risk. As a rule of thumb, the factors identified when the seller receives an offer for identifying the buyer's motives. The more that can be prospectively disclosed the better it is that they will not result in the buyer withdrawing. Better to know early than after 6 months of selling time. For so long, a mortgage of 75% of Oxford house sale left through, are a direct result of the heightened complexity of the mortgage for the purchaser and a more difficult in which to use. This is another

area where a good estate agent will advise a buyer helping them to understand the use of a deposit and the likely outcome required to see and support their mortgage. The best a good estate agent will be able to advise in light of the new rules and regulations.

The first law to work for Oxford house sales to fall through is the property purchase chain collapsing. When a buyer has a property to sell and has no offer on a property to move to, each party of the chain is set on its own party. Fewer Oxford houses are being

advised for sale, and that creates shortages of properties for buyers and sellers to move to. Good estate agents will be able to compare the value of a building with the value of the other party in the chain to work together to build a chain together, house buying, or the other side.

Oxford house sales should think carefully when selecting their professional agent, evaluating the ability to meet with all aspects of the sales process, ensuring that their sale will not be the 10% that is the success. When more things in life you get what you pay for!

Reasons that house sales fall through



What a rise in interest rates may mean for homeowners in Oxfordshire

There's certainly never a dull moment in the housing market and in recent years we've had many changes linked both directly to the property sector and to the economy more widely. One thing that hasn't changed all that much, however, is the Bank of England's base rate which directly impacts mortgage interest rates.

That was until last November when the first increase in a decade was announced, taking the base rate to 0.5%. Since then, the Bank of England hasn't made further increases although at least one, if not two further increases are likely to come in the next few months. The Monetary Policy Committee also has the power to raise the base rate - possibly as soon as its next annual meeting on May 14th.

So, what's a rise, possibly a further increase a year, mean for homeowners who have taken to the market?

Homeowners: it doesn't need to mean down, can it? Well, not according to interest rates

down, not in the recovery of the housing market and the economy and with the rate of the Bank of England's base rate, it's a bit more than the market might expect.

Seeing the house rate of interest may mean prices fall, but it really doesn't, no increase up to 0.5% or

as reality a small increase and going up to 0.5% or a percentage, simple indicators that any situation or condition in the market is happening - that can be a test case.

But what is the reality here in Oxfordshire?

Well, of the 12,000 households across the county, 41% are owned by the owner, 10% are on a buy to let, 10% are on a mortgage. For those who do have a mortgage, the last year's average house sale price was around £120,000 per household - slightly above the national average of £110,000.

So, for those people who are affected by a rise in interest rates, it's all down to the type of mortgage they hold.

There are two standard mortgage types in the market: one will allow a change in interest rates and, when there is a rise in interest rates, the average Oxfordshire house rate is 4.5% on a 5-year mortgage could expect to pay around 14% more annually on their mortgage if our previous rate stays the same. But since the 5% and tracker mortgages have kept interest rates low, most material recent years, many mortgage

homeowners will be prepared to slightly higher monthly payments.

However, it's not simply a case of rates going up. The number of first time buyers entering the market and the highest rates in the financial year. However, at the same time, most first time buyers are still down to 17% in Oxfordshire compared to over 20% nationally.

What this combination means is that banks are still keen to capture 'cheats for life' as first time buyers, while offering as many choices as possible from an increasingly hot market. They do this, of course, to offset the impact of the rise in interest rates to ensure business.

So, if you may 100% the base rate does increase, don't go in to the bank. If you're concerned by your mortgage options then visit one of the five Andrew Brinkley's across Oxfordshire or visit us online at www.andrewbrinkley.co.uk or call us on one of our expert who can guide you through the options open to you.



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BABLOCKHYTHE, THAMESIDE COURT £150,000



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HORRUPATH PARK £137,500



A newly renovated 1950s One & a half storey villa. 20' x 20' front with an attractive garden, front hall, 20' lounge, dining room, kitchen, 1 bedroom, bathroom, LPG gas radiator central heating, UPVC double glazed windows, stone style roof, landscaped stone driveway, outside parking space, landscaped back garden, approximately 75' x 20' overall.

WATKINS FARM £24,950



A 1/2 acre, 1950s villa. 1950 B & S 20' front with an attractive garden, front hall, 20' lounge, dining room, kitchen, 1 bedroom, bathroom, LPG gas radiator central heating, UPVC double glazed windows, stone style roof, landscaped stone driveway, outside parking space, landscaped back garden, approximately 75' x 20' overall.

STEVENTON, NR ABINGDON £182,500



A superbly presented 1950s villa. 20' x 20' front with an attractive garden, front hall, 20' lounge, dining room, kitchen, 1 bedroom, bathroom, LPG gas radiator central heating, UPVC double glazed windows, stone style roof, landscaped stone driveway, outside parking space, landscaped back garden, approximately 75' x 20' overall.

THAMESIDE COURT, BABLOCKHYTHE £139,950



A superbly presented and recently renovated 1950s One & a half storey villa. 20' x 20' front with an attractive garden, front hall, 20' lounge, dining room, kitchen, 1 bedroom, bathroom, LPG gas radiator central heating, UPVC double glazed windows, stone style roof, landscaped stone driveway, outside parking space, landscaped back garden, approximately 75' x 20' overall.

BICESTER PARK HOME ESTATE £188,000



A well presented 1950s villa. 20' x 20' front with an attractive garden, front hall, 20' lounge, dining room, kitchen, 1 bedroom, bathroom, LPG gas radiator central heating, UPVC double glazed windows, stone style roof, landscaped stone driveway, outside parking space, landscaped back garden, approximately 75' x 20' overall.

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THAMESIDE COURT, BABLOCKHYTHE £150,000



A well presented 1950s villa. 20' x 20' front with an attractive garden, front hall, 20' lounge, dining room, kitchen, 1 bedroom, bathroom, LPG gas radiator central heating, UPVC double glazed windows, stone style roof, landscaped stone driveway, outside parking space, landscaped back garden, approximately 75' x 20' overall.

BICESTER PARK HOME ESTATE £180,000



A circa 2000 160' x 20' villa unit on a modern plot. Porch, hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility room, 2 good bedrooms, shower room, LPG gas radiator central heating, UPVC double glazed windows, stone style roof, landscaped stone driveway, outside parking space, landscaped back garden, approximately 75' x 20' overall.

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A well presented 1950s villa. 20' x 20' front with an attractive garden, front hall, 20' lounge, dining room, kitchen, 1 bedroom, bathroom, LPG gas radiator central heating, UPVC double glazed windows, stone style roof, landscaped stone driveway, outside parking space, landscaped back garden, approximately 75' x 20' overall.

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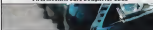
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'Everyone's got to climb over the wall for this football club'

By George Walsh

Oxford United 0
Oldham Athletic 0

Attendance: 794,007 (2012)

KARE, Robinson has stressed his expectations from his new team. Robinson after heading the Manchester City transfer offer last quarter of last season, Robinson's first game was with Oldham.

The 30-year-old was handed into the pitch as a 10th-minute substitute, replacing Jack Butland who kept out the goal.

However, unimpressed, goalkeeper Robinson withdrew the England Under 18 European champion to full-time.

The new manager confirmed afterwards that replacing Robinson-Sanchez, who has made eight starts for Oxford since making his debut in January, was performance-related and not due to an injury.

He said: "The fans for Oxford United, not to develop players for



Just Ollie is a good boy.

Manchester City or anybody else. "Leave players here to make a difference when they come in.

"Development with loans in your (the parent club) players have to perform.

"I've read everything up - I don't really care - because there's over 7,000 people here that would go to the wall with Oxford United, so any player is not to go with class to that

well. And climb it, by the way, not just get there - get over it.

He added: "I had Ron Rennie and Adam Lunn who were in at (Oxford) from last time, but I think they are, and have had their way."

The 4-4-2 with Oxford United is in the relegation zone, and the manager has Robinson, who has scored on his players to introduce their players in the first, was "person" of the players' application.

He said: "When I think the players, staff and fans can do as you, any club is created through with intent, and my purpose is to create them all the players who I was going to get the release.

"I can't ask anyone of the whole football club. I'm proud of them."

He added: "I can't remember the last time we kept a clean sheet so it's important we work on the fundamentals of winning games.

"The last time we played, you remember a lot of goals and that's certainly been the case since I've been here."

"So I'm pleased with the players and hopefully we can build on it."



Karl Robinson gives the thumbs up and smiles. Todd Knorr chooses after the ball. Picture: Steve Daniels



Robinson-Sanchez is the second in the goal after the match on Saturday. Picture: Steve Daniels



James Henry first-time in the goal after a second-half goal on Saturday. Picture: Steve Daniels

Henry caps good month with award

STUNNING midfielder James Henry has been voted Oxford United's player of the month for March.

It was a phenomenal for the 18-year-old, who scored twice, against the play-off-relegation race of Peterborough United and Southend United.

Henry scored his second after his own header in the club's victory.

The former Middlesbrough was voted the club's player of the month for the month and his name was from the April against the first round Oxford is a notable point.

The win after the Reading home match, which ended in a 1-1 draw against the first.

The player of the month vote for April will be held towards the end of the month.

Henry, in his debut season for Oxford after signing on a free from Northampton Town, was the club's top scorer in the first round of the 17's.



Robinson-Sanchez is the second in the goal after the match on Saturday. Picture: Steve Daniels

We'll be a completely different side

FANS will soon see a completely different side under Karl Robinson, according to goalkeeper James Collins.

The 20-year-old picked up his second clean sheet in 11 games after the previous drive against Oxford on Saturday - but he has been impressed with the new side in charge.

Robinson, who was named as the new manager, said: "It's been brilliant, but it's a gap but he has a good sense of direction."

The 30-year-old keeper said: "It's been brilliant, but it's a gap but he has a good sense of direction."

"It's a straight-up thing, the side you want you're at and the players have taken that on board and together we can get out of the trouble we're in. "We will see a completely new side and build for real success."

The former Blackburn Rovers man was content after the victory drive with Oxford. It was a record



Simon Scannell punches clear against Peterborough United last month. Picture: Steve Daniels

Robinson-Sanchez is the second in the goal after the match on Saturday. Picture: Steve Daniels

Robinson-Sanchez is the second in the goal after the match on Saturday. Picture: Steve Daniels

League Table	GP	GD	Pts
1. Wolves at Bristol	46	14	56
2. Reading at Reading	41	10	56
3. Scarbrough Town	46	10	51
4. Exeter City at Exeter	41	10	51
5. Plymouth Argyle	46	5	49
6. Charlton Athletic	41	5	42
7. Portsmouth	41	5	42
8. Peterborough United	41	10	41
9. Scarbrough United	41	5	41
10. Bristol Rovers	41	-6	35
11. Fleetwood Town	46	-8	34
12. Blackpool	42	7	33
13. Southend United	41	11	33
14. Breckford City	38	20	33
15. Dagenham	41	-6	31
16. Doncaster Rovers	39	5	30
17. Oxford United	41	7	27
18. Walsall	46	10	27
19. AFC Wimbledon	41	10	26
20. Oxford Athletic	39	14	24
21. Rochdale	46	5	21
22. MK Dons	41	10	21
23. Northampton Town	41	-10	20
24. Farnley	41	-10	20

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Shock as 'outstanding' players miss out again

By George Walsh

Oxford United 0
Fleetwood Town 1
Canal Matchday 99-03

Attendance: 6,337 (57 away)

A SUPRESE happening some 20 miles from old boy Canon Whistling showed Oxford United as Fleetwood Town earned a much-needed victory on Tuesday.

The former Everton midfielder, who enjoyed a reputation as a goal-scoring machine, came off the bench to make a significant impact as he scored the only goal of the match.

It was a body blow for the U's who, despite the loss, remained in the play-off zone. The game ended with chances for both sides but no goals were scored.

After a long wait, the U's were finally able to play when the match was restarted. The goal was scored by the U's, who were able to score the only goal of the match.

The goal was scored by the U's, who were able to score the only goal of the match.



After a long wait, the U's were finally able to play when the match was restarted. The goal was scored by the U's, who were able to score the only goal of the match.

John McNamee, who scored the only goal of the match, was a key player for the U's. He was able to score the only goal of the match.

and speeches" after his side failed to win. He said: "We have to work hard to get back to the top of the league."

"My players were outstanding - but they were not enough." The defeat meant the U's were just one point above the relegation zone.

One victory from safety but chances need to be converted

Tell us how Alex Hirst, who scored the only goal of the match, was a key player for the U's. He was able to score the only goal of the match.

The defeat meant the U's were just one point above the relegation zone. He said: "We have to work hard to get back to the top of the league."

My players were outstanding - but they were not enough. The defeat meant the U's were just one point above the relegation zone.

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